

## PASTOR'S NOTES

### The Good Shepherd

Always on the fourth Sunday of the Easter season the Gospel readings are taken from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel where Christ speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd.

For the people of Israel God is their principal shepherd, though God is seldom labeled by that title. Yet the image of shepherding does describe the relationship between God and His people. Good shepherding implies being both leader and companion. At times God entrusts to his servants the sheep he leads (e.g. - Moses, David, etc.)

A truly good shepherd is one who sees to the fact that his sheep have enough food and water. He is the one who guards his sheep from the prey of wild animals and thieves. A good shepherd is especially concerned about the condition of his flock being careful not to overdrive them or to carry helpless lambs in his arms or on his shoulders. At night time a shepherd corrals his sheep in an enclosure like a cave or a temporary walled enclosure of tangled wood. **Ultimately the work of a shepherd is to keep his flock intact.** He does this by counting them as they pass under his hand as they go in and out of their enclosures and calls them by name. This idyllic kind of shepherding imagery is often used in describing how national leaders should rule over their people. But chapter 34 in the book of the prophet Ezekiel speaks harshly of bad shepherds whose rule is only to take advantage of their people for the leader's personal well-being. That is why Israel only saw God as their true shepherd and the prophets foresaw a day when God himself would shepherd His people.

This seems to be Jesus' concern in today's Gospel and is the reason he discloses himself to be the Good Shepherd. His love is for all and goes to the point where he lays down his life for his sheep because of the intimacy of his love for them (us). This Good Shepherd imagery is a very apt description of the Easter mystery and the mission of God's undying love to redeem the human race. The Good Shepherd is just another lens through which we see what it means to belong to the people of the resurrection.

After this Sunday the Gospel readings for the last couple weeks of the Easter season will find us at the Last Supper table listening to Jesus talk about the true vine and loving one another as he has loved us. The depth and profundity of Easter love is without parallel in all of history.

### Last Call for Lenten canisters

At the beginning of Lent we were given Lenten canisters to show forth a generous spirit of almsgiving – *care for brothers and sisters throughout the world, in our nation and our local community who find themselves needy, destitute, and impoverished.*

**If you have not done so at this time, please return your canister this week. I thank you in advance for your generosity.**

If you have unused canisters from previous years, please return them also. This allows us to be good stewards by not having to purchase new canisters each year.

### Capital Campaign **RSVP**

If you have not done so already — please **RSVP** — to one of the upcoming receptions explaining the ongoing \$20 million campaign for the Diocese of Fargo and both St. Leo's and St. Thomas' part in that enterprise.

**Upcoming St. Leo's receptions are:**

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> and Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Spirit of Life Center.**

**Upcoming St. Thomas reception is:**

**Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Church social hall.**



St. Leo's Catholic Church  
211 Langer Ave North  
PO Box 340  
Casselton ND  
347-4609

St. Thomas Catholic Church  
401 Third St. North  
PO Box 22  
Buffalo ND  
633-5150



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER April 21, 2024

### Weekend Mass Schedule for St. Leo's and St. Thomas

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays: 8:30 am St. Thomas, 10:30 am St. Leo's

2nd & 4th Sundays: 8:30 am St. Leo's, 10:30 am St. Thomas

Every Saturday: 5:00 pm at St. Leo's

### Mass Intentions for the week of Apr 21:

Mon - Apr 22 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

Tues - Apr 23 – 9:00 am - St. Thomas – +**Lillian Von Bank** by Luella Grieve

*NO MASS at St. Leo's*

Wed – Apr 24 – 9:00 am – +**Jim Kieffer** by Carol Nilles

Thurs – Apr 25 – 9:00 am – +**Souls in purgatory**

Fri – Apr 26 – 9:00 am – +**Shirley Marek** by Monica Qvale

**Saturday – Apr 27 – 5:00 pm - +Jim Schmitt by Paulette Schmitt**

**Sunday - Apr 28 – St. Leo's- 8:30 am - Olivia Garman by Casey & Anna Garman**

**St. Thomas - 10:30 am - For the people of our parishes**

### Parish Staff:

**Pastor:** Fr. James Ermer

**E-mail:** james.ermer@fargodiocese.org

**Secretary:** Delores Grommesh

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: stleo@casselton.net

**RE Coordinator:** Patty Roth

Phone: 701-347-4609

E-mail: dre@stleosnd.org

**Website:** www.stleosnd.org

**Prayer Chain:**

Kelsey Lako: 701-793-7088

**Maintenance:** Paul & Sherry Radermacher

Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

**St. Leo's Directors:** Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay

**St. Thomas Directors:** Gary Milbrandt & Flint Kasowski

### *Sacrament of Reconciliation* at St. Leo's

**4:00 - 4:45 pm Saturday**

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at St. Thomas

**8:00 - 8:15 am**

**before all 8:30 am Masses**

~ Anytime by appointment

~ Communal Services during

Advent and Lent

**New Members:** If you are new to the area, we would love to have you as a registered member. To register as a new member of the parish, please visit with Fr. Ermer after Mass.

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Please join in praying the Rosary  
25 minutes before the Saturday evening  
and Sunday morning Mass times.

## PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tues., Apr 23 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory  
 Wed., Apr 24 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory  
 Fri, Apr 26 - 6:30 pm - Confirmation/1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Rehearsal; 6 pm Supper  
**Sat., Apr 27 - 1:30 pm - Confirmation/1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist with Bishop Folda at St. Leo's**  
**Sun., Apr 28 - 6:30 pm - St. Leo's Capital Campaign Reception in the Spirit of Life Center**  
**Mon., Apr 29 - 6:30 pm - St. Leo's Capital Campaign Reception in the Spirit of Life Center**  
**Wed. May 1 - 6:30 pm - St. Thomas Capital Campaign Reception in the Church Social Hall**  
 Tues., May 7 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory  
 Tues., May 14 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery Committee meeting at the rectory

**REMINDER:** Please remember to return your Lenten canisters.

### Religious Education Class Times — Apr. 24<sup>th</sup>


St. Thomas RE classes — 3:45 pm

St. Leo's RE classes: Simple Supper - 6:00 pm  
 Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 — (5:15 pm session); (6:30 pm session)  
 Grades K & 5, 6, 8, 9 & 10 — 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
 Grade 7 - Class A and 12<sup>th</sup> grade — 6:15 - 7:45 pm



**Help Support our Camerleon Card Mission:** Cards are available for purchase in the church entry. A selection of different occasions is available. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.

### Upcoming Ministry Schedule

|                                                                                   | Saturday Apr 27<br>5:00 pm<br>St. Leo's           | Sunday Apr 28<br>8:30 am<br>St. Leo's                                               | Sunday Apr 28<br>10:30 am<br>St. Thomas |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|  |                                                   |                                                                                     |                                         |
| <b>Lector</b>                                                                     | Tony Roth                                         | Fred Eldridge                                                                       | Keith Biggers                           |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                                                      | Paulette Schmitt<br>Mona Franck                   | Virjean Cramer<br>Dave Glennon<br>Patty Glennon<br>Terri Monilaws<br>Richard Muscha | Keith Biggers<br>Kristi Hovelson        |
| <b>Altar Servers</b>                                                              | Evelyn Roth<br>Joe/Jensen Kappes<br>Beau Parisien | Glennon Family<br>Nolan Ziegelmann                                                  | Carly Hovelson<br>Ali Killoran          |
| <b>Offertory Collectors</b>                                                       | Volunteers needed                                 | Volunteers needed                                                                   | Joe & Lora Killoran                     |
| <b>Gift Bearers</b>                                                               | Volunteers needed                                 | Volunteers needed                                                                   | Travis Besette Family                   |
| <b>Lead Rosary</b>                                                                | Michelle Kappes                                   | Sandra Keller                                                                       |                                         |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**St. Thomas parish** will be honoring their 2024 Confirmation students and the 2024 High School graduate following the 8:30 am Mass on Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Teams of Our Lady for Your Marriage:** Are you interested in enriching your couple/marriage spirituality on a journey with other Catholic like-minded couples? The F-M Sector of Teams of Our Lady now has 12 TEAMS comprised of 72 area couples, 11 chaplains, and has been going strong for 19 years! Join us to learn more at our Spring Information Sessions!

- Info Session #1 - Sunday, April 21st at 2:00 pm at Holy Cross Church in West Fargo
- Info Session #2 - Tuesday, April 30th at 7:00 pm at Sts. Anne & Joachim Church, Fargo

All couples (BOTH husband and wife) wishing to join TEAMS are *required to attend one* of these two sessions. Mark your calendar as these will be the only information sessions this year. For more information, e-mail [fargosectorinformation@gmail.com](mailto:fargosectorinformation@gmail.com) More information can also be found on the TEAMS website at [www.teamsofourlady.org](http://www.teamsofourlady.org)

**Theology of the Body and the Culture of Life Retreat:** May 9-11, at the Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City, ND. The retreat will focus on St. John Paul II's teaching on the human person known as the "Theology of the Body" and its connection to the Church's teaching on such issues as marriage, contraception, abortion, euthanasia, artificial reproduction, gender and the Eucharist. There will be Mass, Confessions, Adoration, Praise and Worship music and time for prayer and reflection. You can register as a married couple, single person or as a parent with a teen at least 16 years old. For more information and to register go to [maryvalend.org](http://maryvalend.org) or contact Tim Mosser at [tim.mosser@fargodiocese.org](mailto:tim.mosser@fargodiocese.org)

**Redeemed Eucharistic Congress:** September 6 & 7, 2024 at the Jamestown Civic Center (212 3rd Ave NE). The event will include Mass with Bishop Folda, Eucharistic procession from St. James Basilica, Eucharistic healing with Fr. Jeff Eppler, Praise and Worship with Aly Aleigha and Adoration. Guest speakers will include Scott Hahn, Julianne Stanz and Msgr. Thomas Richter. Cost for the event is \$35 before Aug 1, after Aug 1 \$50. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board. To register please visit – [www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed](http://www.fargodiocese.org/redeemed) or call (701)356-7900

**Women's Care Center, Fargo** is looking for volunteers to help with childcare during life-skills/parenting classes. Wednesdays 10:45 am - 12:15 pm. Volunteering frequency is flexible; once a month, weekly or occasionally. Please contact Angela at (701)237-6530 or [angeka@wccnd.com](mailto:angeka@wccnd.com)



**THANK YOU!** We extend a big thank you to Paul Olsen and his 7<sup>th</sup> grade RE class, and all the other volunteers, to help our Cemetery committee clean up St. Leo's Cemetery this past Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Your time and effort are very much appreciated. Please see the poster on the bulletin board of some pictures taken during the clean up.

### This week's Stewardship moment:

*"I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice." ~ John 10:14-16*

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Jesus what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in "quiet whispers" that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.